

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone and the
Somerville Arts Council invite you to...

ARTBEAST

July 20-21, 2007
Davis Square



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Artists and festival goers converge on Davis Square, transforming it into one of the area's largest and most innovative arts festivals. This year we've changed the title of our festival from ArtBeat to ArtBeast! Artists will explore all things beastly in a variety of ways. There will be an animal-themed parade, a Piñata Monster Bash, a Traffic Island Zoo and a Beauty & the Fiber Beast Knitting project. There will also be a monstrous lineup of bands, dance troupes, theatre & film.

Contact:

Rachel Strutt, Program Manager
Somerville Arts Council
617 625 6600 x2985

rachel@somervilleartscouncil.org



Illustration: Raul Gonzalez & Elaine Bay

July 20 **ArtBeast by Night** [Rain date: July 21, same times]:

Park Stage, Seven Hills Park (behind Somerville Theatre)

- 6:00PM Bullock Brothers (gospel)
- 6:45PM Bennett Dance (modern dance)
- 7:15PM Young Republic (indie)
- 8:15PM Bon Savants (pop)
- 9:15PM Beastly Film Shorts

July 21 **ArtBeast by Day** [Rain date: July 22, same times]

From Elm Street to Park Stage in Seven Hills Park

- 11:30AM Beastly Parade

Park Stage, Seven Hills Park

- 12:00PM Revolutionary Snake Ensemble (funk & street brass)
- 12:45PM Grupo Chévere (merengue, bachata)
- 1:30PM Balla Kouyate (Malian)
- 2:30PM Hallelujah the Hills (indie pop/rock)
- 3:30PM El Mariachi Estampa de America
- 4:30PM Everyday Visuals (pop)

Elm Street Stage

- 12:30PM Laura Bullock (folk)
- 1:30PM B for Brontosaurus (punk/folk rock)
- 2:30PM Boston Typewriter Orchestra (typewriter pop)
- 3:30PM Peter Parcek (blues)
- 4:30PM Shepherdess (rock)

Jimmy Tingle Theater

- 12:15PM Magpie Puppets
- 1:30PM Gloucester Hornpipe & Clog Society
- 2:30PM Behind the Mask
- 3:30PM Boston Hula Hoop Troop

Somerville Theatre (Dance Showcase)

- 12:30PM Emily Beattie
- 1:30PM Indian Dance Showcase w/ Triveni; Aparna Sindhoor; Wendy Jehlen
- 3:00PM Mosaic Dance Body
- 4:00PM MonkeyHouse

Elm Street Plaza

- 11:45PM Sunsetters
- 12:30PM DinoMan!
- 2:00PM Silver Swimmers
- 3:00PM Busking musicians (for remainder of festival)

McIntyre & Moore Booksellers (255 Elm Street)

- 2:00PM "WordPlay" literary reading

Statue Park & traffic islands in heart of festival

- All Day Children's arts area, Beauty & the Fiber Beast Knitting Project, Tufts Traveling Trunk, Traffic Island Zoo, Piñata Monster Bash!, caged humans, Open Air Circus and more!

ArtBeat by night: Fri., July 20th

Music and Mixed-Media in Seven Hills Park

6:00PM **Bullock Brothers**

The Bullock Brothers have been singing and performing gospel songs since 1950 throughout New England and beyond. Now many of the sons of the original members have joined the group, making them a gospel legacy. The group's repertoire includes classic songs such as "Go Down Moses" and "Swing Low Sweet Chariot."

6:45PM **Bennett Dance Comapany performs "Ladder Dances"**

Bennett Dance blends modern dance with sculpture, photography, martial arts and original music, and discover and reveal a sense of poetry and power beyond mere technique or physicality. For ArtBeast, Bennett Dance will perform "Ladder Dances," inspired by their work with looming rope nets. Here dancers Christine Bennett, Nicole Dagesse, Mary McCarthy, and DeAnna Pellecchia hover, float and weave their way to 16 feet above the ground against an urban landscape.

7:15PM **Young Republic**

The Young Republic comprises 8 Berklee College of Music students who compose songs that blend folk, rock, and classical styles—with instruments like upright bass, violin, flute, and trumpet complementing traditional guitars and drums. The indie orchestral ensemble draw comparisons with the Arcade Fire and Belle & Sebastian, and with over 100 shows behind them and an upcoming UK tour that includes the famed Glastonbury Festival, the band has finely honed its live performance.

8:15PM **Bon Savants**

These local indie rock upstarts, dubbed "Boston's best indie band by Spin.com," are on the brink of national success. Recently band members quit their day jobs, embarked on a national tour, and released "Post Rock Defends the Nation," a cd lauded by national press including *Magnet*, *Billboard* and the *L.A. Times*. Their songs range from elegant space rock to infectious pop gems—yet they always retain an idiosyncratic tang, with lyrics that speak to loss, love and science (singer and MIT grad Thom Moran is a rocket scientist, afterall).

9:15PM **Beastly Film Shorts**

Curated by SAC board member Kathryn Ostermier, this collection of short films includes "Fable" by Dan Sousa, an animated work that focuses on a solitary hunter and a house-bound woman, set amid a lyrical world of magic and transformation. "Ape," by Julie Zammarchi is a surrealistic film depicting a grouchy couple's de-evolutionary nightly ritual as they battle over their nightly dinner—a cooked monkey. In "Echoes of Bats and Men," by Jo Dery, we learn about Rhode Island's industrial evolution through the midnight flight of a little bat and his many friends. Finally, in Karen Aqua's "Nine Lives," a fortune teller's cards lead the viewer on a journey through time and collective memory, using the metaphor of a cat's multiple lives.



From top to bottom: Bennett Dance Company; Young Republic, Bon Savants, a still from "Echoes of Bats and Men," by filmmaker Jo Dery.

ArtBeat Sat., July 21st

MUSIC ON THE PARK STAGE

12:00PM **Beastly Parade led by Revolutionary Snake Ensemble**

This monstrous parade will wind its way down Elm Street and end in 7 Hills Park. Expect to see strange beasts, cute critters, a giant dragon, children donning handmade animal masks, and stilt walkers. The parade will be led by the Revolutionary Snake Ensemble, who have recently performed at Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and aboard the Amtrak Crescent train. The snakes will end on stage and play a set of their New Orleans infused, raucous funk and street jazz numbers.

12:45 PM **Grupo Chévere**

Grupo Chévere is made up of members from Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Curaçao, who specialize in the Dominican style of bachata, combining guitar and percussion. The group also plays merengue (also from Dominican Republic), cumbia (Colombia), and salsa (Cuba) music. There's no way you won't be dancing.

1:30PM **Balla Kouyaté & World Vision**

Balla Kouyaté is one of the greatest balafon players from the Djeli or "griot" tradition in Mali. Balla, who began playing the instrument at age 6, has played with many African artists touring in the United States and his musicianship has been featured on at least 35 albums. Currently he works with kora master Mamadou Diabaté playing events such as Lincoln Center Outdoor Festival and festivals around the country.

2:30PM **Hallelujah the Hills**

The band's line-up of bass, drums, cello, Moog, trumpet, melodica, sampler and plenty of guitars grants them the space to expand and contract as their melodies and arrangements see fit. Think of them as the sonic equivalent to Willy Wonka's ferry ride, seemingly random yet utterly precise, first drifting along a chocolate river with a lulling sound then hurtling you into the unknown with a thundering danger until you arrive somewhere entirely new, a fantastic destination full of wonder.

3:30PM **Mariachi Estampa de America**

Estampa de America features musicians from Texas, Mexico and El Salvador. Playing their traditional Mariachi music on the button accordion, trumpets, the guittaron (large 6-string guitar) and the vihuela (small 5-string guitar), Estampa de America also plays norteño and conjunto music from the Texas border and cumbia from Columbia.

4:30PM **Everyday Visuals**

This quintet mix waves of noisy rock experimentation and alt-country flair. Add harmonies that call to mind The Beach Boys, and a penchant for electronic beats reminiscent of Bjork, and you begin to get a picture. The band was named "Best New Band of 2006" by The Noise and their record "Media Crush" was praised by critics, including The Boston Metro, who called the record "One of the top local releases of the year." The band has toured nationally, sold out the Paradise, and shared the stage with national acts like Matt Pond, PA.



Top to Bottom: RSE, Balla Kouyate, Hallelujah the Hills, Estampa de America, Everyday Visuals.

ArtBeat Sat., July 21st

MUSIC ON THE ELM STREET STAGE

12:30PM **Laura Bullock**

Somerville's own, Laura Bullock's songwriting reflects a longing for redemption and a striving for significance in the very normal moments of daily life. On stage, she connects with audiences like friends over tea. Her songs that combine her sweet and simple voice, beautiful guitar work, and lyrics filled with depth and history. "In layman's terms, this Boston-area songwriter knows how to write some pretty impressive folk-pop." ~WERS, 88.9 FM

1:30PM **B for Brontosaurus**

B for Brontosaurus is a three-piece of Somerville musicians. Abe, Ben, and Joanna play drums, guitar, and bass/keyboards, respectively, while vocal duties are shared. They have lived and played together in Somerville for over two years. Their songs, which they describe as "sweet and raucous and loud and quiet", reflect their varied influences, from 60s proto-punk to indie-pop.

2:30PM **Boston Typewriter Orchestra**

The BTO is a collective endeavor that engages in rhythmic typewriter manipulation combined with elements of performance, comedy and satire. Up to this point the orchestra has played exclusively manual typewriters; however, they recently have added two IBM Selectrics typewriters to the mix. The combination of the strong key-strike sound with the low latency of these machines will allow the BTO to experiment with a new "plugged" sound.

3:30PM **Peter Parcek**

Peter's daring, incendiary, and soulful style is a distinctive hybrid that weaves threads of rock, jazz, country, folk, blues and more into a rich tapestry of melody, harmony and daredevil solo excursions that push all of those styles to their limits without sacrificing an iota of the warmth that emanates from Peter's own personality. Peter calls his approach "soul guitar," an appellation that alludes to his playing's depth of feeling and character, as well as its deepest roots in classic American music.

4:30PM **Shepherdess**

Shepherdess plays what they call "part heart-felt folk/part balls-out rock." The quartet includes Hilken Mancini (Fuzzy, Count Me Outs, Punk Rock Aerobics) on guitar, vocals, and loops; Emily Arkin (The Operators, The Tricunx, Somerville resident and SAC board member) on violin and baritone guitar; Mike Savage (Fudge, Cherry 2000, Count Me Outs) on drums; and Winston Braman (Thalia Zedek Band, Consonant, Magic People, Fuzzy) on bass. The band just recorded a full-length to be released on Kimchee Records.



Top to Bottom: Laura Bullock, B for Brontosaurus, Peter Parcek, Shepherdess.

ArtBeat Sat., July 21

DANCE SHOWCASE AT SOMERVILLE THEATRE

12:30PM Emily Beattie

Emily Beattie has been a Somerville based dancer and choreographer for four years, and is a 2007 Somerville Arts Council Artist Grant Recipient. The urgency of Blissterra, is created by the flickering secondary lighting the dancers activate during the work. The subsequent solowork is an exploration of the light/dark regions of the human mind. Performers: Ruth Bronwen, Catherine Mureck, Sarah Turner-Ackley and Emily Beattie.

1:30PM Indian Dance Showcase

Displaying the diversity of the surrounding community, this showcase features three different styles of Indian dance. The Triveni School of Dance will be performing two traditional Indian dances, Das Avatar and Ganesha Dance, in the Odissi style. A disciple of the Triveni School, Wendy Jehlen's contemporary choreography is a wide array of world dance and movement styles. This Spring, Jehlen was commissioned to create "The Moth," a dance symbolizing the inevitable attraction of the lover towards the beloved, and the annihilation that occurs at their union, for the acclaimed Jahan-e-Khusrau festival in Delhi, India. Aparna Sindhoor has choreographed a contemporary Indian dance interpretation of the story of Beauty and the Beast. The dance will be performed by Sindhoor, Anil Kumar Sukumara Pillai, and Pratheesh Shivandan, who are among the best contemporary dancers from India.

3:00PM Mosaic Dance Body

Fresh from a commissioned performance at the Umlauf Sculpture Garden in Austin, Mosaic Dance Body is delighted to perform Bodies of Water at ArtBeat 2007. Choreographed by Dawn Davis Loring, the trio is a shimmering meditation on the dynamic movement of water and water creatures within a three-dimensional system littered with the activities of human beings. Bodies of Water was created during a Space Grant Artist Program residency, sponsored by Green Street Studios, premiering October 2006. Performers are: Jessie Boudreau, Lauren Lenihan and ToRena Webb.

4:00PM Monkeyhouse

Whether writhing on one stilt, or dancing in a shirt of nails, Monkeyhouse's dance theater creations are "innovative and intelligent" (offoffoff.com) and "anything but conventional" (Boston Herald). Monkeyhouse, voted Best Dance Company in Boston 2006 and 2007 by the Boston Phoenix Readers' Poll, is a nonprofit organization that stimulates interest in choreography. They will be presenting Excerpts from Anablep, featuring some of their best loved, critically acclaimed dances.



Top to Bottom: Emily Beattie, Trivini School of Dance, Mosaic Dance Body, Monkeyhouse.

ArtBeat Sat., July 21st

ELM STREET PLAZA HAPPENINGS (BY STARBUCKS)

IN JIMMY TINGLE OFF BROADWAY THEATER ...

11:45PM Sunsetters

Comprised of high school aged performers, the Sunsetters were a popular singing and dancing street performance group during the 1970s and '80s. Mayor Curtatone brought back the tradition in 2005 to expand the city's youth programming. At ArtBeat, the Sunsetters will perform classic show tunes.

1:2:30PM DinoMan

Look! Dinosaur tracks lead right to downtown Somerville! Have no fear Dinoman is here. Where did they come from? Where did they go? Dinoman with his pet raccoon explain all through songs, magic, and amazing props, giving the audience a larger understanding of these massive monarchs of our past.

2:00PM Silver Swimmers

An awe-inspiring roving street-type performance ensemble based in Western Massachusetts. These silver dancers saturate space with movement reminiscent of an underwater imaginary realm. Dressed in originally designed early 1900's era swimming costumes and completely swathed in silver body paint, they silently swim against the pressure of absent water.

3:00PM Buskers

For the rest of the afternoon solo performances by buskers will entertain audiences. Scott Ouellette will play Latin American style guitar; John O'Hara will play original songs, followed by a cover song of an artist who inspired it; David Wildman performs dynamic rock; and Gil Graham will churn out Latin American percussion.

12:15PM Magpie Puppets Presents: Leopard Learns a Lesson

"Leopard Learns a Lesson" is based on a folktale from Malawi, where the audience learns, along with the leopards, that cooperation works better than intimidation. Maggie Whalen, creating and performing puppet shows for children since 1969, is the creator of Magpie Puppets, a one-woman hand puppet theater based in Medford, Massachusetts.

1:30PM Gloucester Hornpipe & Clog Society Presents: "Historic Beastliness: Battles and Waltzing Bears"

On the wilder side of folk music, the performance includes rousing vocals, accordion, fiddle, banjo, dulcimer, and rhythm (spoons, bones, and the amazing pogo-cello). New and old songs of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 and fun chanteys by salty sea-dogs will be sung, and Irish jigs and reels will be performed.

2:30PM Behind the Mask presents "Sho"

Adapted from a book by Francoise Richard and inspired by a Japanese folk tale, this is the story of Sho, a servant girl who journeys to a strange and far-off mountain where she hopes to find her freedom and her lost cat. But to her dismay, the people she meets on the way all tell her that no one has ever returned from Cat Mountain! Performed solo, the little girl's special visitor, in the form of a sacred ancestor, tells the tale with an assortment of masks, music, traditional Japanese songs, vocabulary, and theatre-styles.

3:30PM Boston Hula Hoop Troop

Behold the hip shaking wonder of our city's finest hula hoop troop.

Left to Right: Silver Swimmers, Maggie Whalen of Magpie Puppets, DinoMan's inflatable



ArtBeat Sat., July 21st

All Day Traffic Island Zoo (center of Davis Square)

Visit our traffic island zoo in the heart of the festival where you'll find creatures created by local artists, including artist Skunk's giant moose made out of old bicycle chains and Paul Angiolillo's giant bird made out of a large birch branch. Other zoo inhabitants are Charlotte Kaplan's polkadot-painting pet and Robert Smith's and Nick Wyneken's Neanderthal Beast and drumming monkey. There will also be beastly art hanging in McIntyre & Moore Booksellers's windows, including work by filmmaker Karen Aqua.

2PM- McIntyre & Moore Booksellers Literary Events and Exhibit (255 Elm St.)

4PM From 2pm to 4pm, Somerville Writers will present recent works in this year's "WordPlay" literary event. In keeping with this year's "ArtBeast" theme, readings will deal with the many interpretations of what it means to be "beastly." Curated by Zachary Boissonneau.

All Day Over 90 Craft Vendors! (along Holland and Elm Streets)

The streets of Davis Square will be transformed into a mecca of hand-crafted wares with our largest ever assortment of artists and artisans. Returning ArtBeat icons such as Brooks Morris (Buckaroo's Mercantile), Raelinda Woad (Storyteller Jewelry), and Don Sawyer (Fine Art & Dine Art) will be joined by a slew of debuting craftsters, including Carrie Kan henna body art and Skeintiy Clad's handpainted and handspun yarn.

All Day Children's Art Activities in Statue Park (by Store 24)

Bring your kids to numerous activities throughout the day, such as MonsterBash, a smashingly interactive exhibit of beastly pinatas. There will also be monster trading cards to collect, DIY monster-making activities, balloon animals, mask making with the city's Recreation Department and a giant build-a-beast, ready and waiting to be fleshed out and decorated by festival goers of all ages.

1&3PM Tufts Traveling Treasure Trunk in Statue Park (by Store 24)

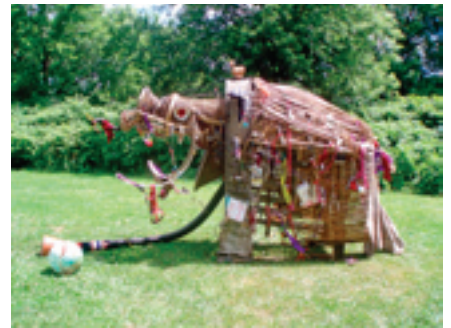
Founded in 1987, this troupe is a student-run, community service group that tours around the greater Boston area and raises money for charities. Trunk writes its own plays, directs its own shows, and makes its own costumes. Trunk will perform two whimsical pieces for children, at 1pm and 3pm, in Statue Park.

All Day Knitting (Dover Street)

There will be two knitting groups at ArtBeat this year! At the "Beauty and the Fiber Beast" table, festival goers can feel fibers from beasts (camels, yaks, goats, dogs and silkworm) as well as fibers from non-beasts (soy, bamboo, seaweed, corn). See how yarn is made, get instruction or tips, or knit/crochet your own small beast. Meanwhile Sarah Davitt will be organizing knitters to create "yarn-lichen" to display on trees, statues and fence poles throughout the festival.

All Day "The Cage Interviews" (Holland St. entrance to Davis Sq. T stop)

Standing beside her large metal cage artist Alisia Waller will invite passers-by to enter and be interviewed. The conversation-as-performance will gently explore what it feels like to be in a cage, exploring questions of vulnerability, escape and comfort.



From top to bottom: Robert Smith's and Nick Wyneken's Neanderthal Beast; Henna Art by Carrie Kan; Hilary Scott's Build-a-Beast; Tufts Traveling Treasure Trunk; Alisia Waller, in her cage.